

## CONCEPT NOTE – CFS 50 GAFSP/IFAD/ROPPA Side event

### 1. Event Features

**Transforming food systems: investing in producer organizations, innovative approaches to support smallholder farmers**

**Date:** Thursday, October 13, 2022 - 8.30-9.45 CET

**Suggested Format**

- 75 min moderated panel discussion

**Platform:** Fully Virtual. Zoom Meeting will be arranged by FAO. Simultaneous translation French English will be available.

### 2. Objectives

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- Create a space for dialogue around various financing tools/modalities, including small-scale grants and blended financing, that support the empowerment and development of Producer Organizations (POs) and Farmers' Organizations (FOs).
- Highlight successful initiatives/investments that focus on POs, showcasing examples from GAFSP (PO-led track) and IFAD (Grants to FO's (SFOAP, FO4ACP, FO4A, FO4LA, etc. and RPSF Grants as Covid-19 response such as SAFE 2020 and ARISE-farmers)
- Announce the upcoming launch of a GAFSP PO-led Call for Proposals in 2022 and the IFAD Farmers' Forum and Regional Farmers' Forum Process ongoing during 2022, results and experiences from FO4ACP
- Highlight how direct funding to Producer Organizations such as that offered by GAFSP and IFAD are in line with the responsible investment principles outlined by the CFS.

### 5. Rationale/Narrative

According to the 2022 edition of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), acute food insecurity is on the rise. The number of people affected by hunger has grown by about 150 million since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, between 702 and 828 million people were affected by hunger in 2021. The drivers of acute hunger are rooted in a multi-layered crisis that includes climate change, conflict, and COVID-19.

At this time of urgent need and strong global commitments transformative investments targeted at smallholder farmers are more relevant than ever.

Evidence shows that smallholder farmers can support their own income and productivity growth when they come together to combine their efforts. Producer organization-led investments provide smallholders with greater ownership, allowing them to make more effective decisions about their businesses. By coming together and leveraging their collective bargaining power, they are able to forge stronger links among actors along the agriculture value chain, from 'farm to table.'

Smallholder farmers are entrepreneurs, innovators, transformers, conservers, adapters, and thought leaders. Rooted in this belief, GAFSP and IFAD have made it one of their missions to work more directly and closely with POs.

This event will highlight the importance and the advantage of investing in POs to enable their members to become their own change agents, enabling them to make effective decisions about their businesses and improve their livelihoods.

After an advocacy process lead by Pos/CSOs members of GAFSP SC, In 2016, GAFSP launched a pilot that provided small-scale grants to FOs and POs to lead, design, and implement projects. These projects demonstrate that when investment is channeled to smallholders, it allows for a quicker and more efficient response to crises and a more robust recovery. Building on the pilot's successes, in 2021, GAFSP expanded its PO-led portfolio. Moreover, through its private sector arm, GAFSP invests in early-stage agribusiness projects that may not attract commercial funding due to perceived high risks in the agricultural sector.

IFAD has a longstanding partnership with FOs worldwide and supports them to effectively represent their members and provide them with economic services for profitable integration into markets and value chains and engage in policy dialogue. IFAD's approach is two-pronged: investments through sovereign loans and grants programs, and institutional dialogue through the Farmers' Forum process and regional grants programs.

Through examples, this event will speak to how PO-led investments and initiatives offer a complementary and effective delivery channel to address crises, as demonstrated during COVID-19.

Moving forward, GAFSP and IFAD will continue to increase investments in smallholder communities while aligning with CFS's 10 principles for responsible investment.

## 6. Tentative Run of Show

<b>Intro (7 min)</b> Mary Kathryn Hollifield, GAFSP Program Head; Marco Camagni, IFAD Global Senior Technical Lead Rural Institutions (video message)
<b>Opening Remarks by Donors:</b> Corry van Gaal, GAFSP Steering Committee Chair representing Canada
<b>Panel (45 min)</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> - Ms. Alberta Guerra, Senior Policy Advisor, ActionAid USA  <b>Suggested panelists (5 people max):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Annick Sezibera, Executive Secretary of the Confederation of Associations of Agricultural Producers for Development, Burundi, (CAPAD)</li><li>- Fanny Grandval, IFAD Senior Regional Technical Officer Rural Institutions</li><li>- Estrella "Esther" Penunia is Secretary General of the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)</li><li>- Representative from the National Coordination of Farmer Organisation (CNOP), Mali (TBD)</li><li>- Decade on Family Farming Representative (TBD)</li></ul>

**Potential questions:**

- **To POs:** What characterizes a “producer organization”? What are POs specific needs? What’s your role in working with farmers? Why are POs critical to smallholders?
- **To IFAD:** On an operational level, how is it different to work more directly with Pos than Governments? And what considerations need to be considered?
- **To AFA and IFAD:** In your experience how do POs perform in time of crisis
- **To all panelists:** Why does it make a positive difference to invest more directly in POs?
- **To all panelists:** Are investments directed to PO an efficient tool to promote partnerships? Do you have any success story
- **To all panelists:** To what extent these financing modalities are aligned to the CFS principles of responsible investments?

**Moderated Q&A (20 min)**

- Chat function will enable audience to send in questions during the round table discussion
- At the end the moderator will summarize the discussion

**Closing Remarks (5 min)**

- Ibrahima Coulibaly, President of the Network of Farmers’ Organizations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA)